

REMARKS

The allowability of claims 4,7, 9, 13-15 and 20 is acknowledged appreciatively.

The rejection of claims 5, et al. under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, because parent claim 1 is not a method claim may be important under IPXL Holdings LLC v. Amazon.com Inc., 77 USPQ2d1140 (Fed. Cir. 2005), which discourages mixing methods and apparatus (systems), but is traversed by specifying the method status of claim 1.

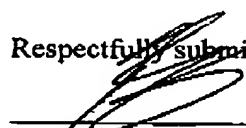
The rejections of claims 1, 2 and 12 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for antecedent bases are attended to above.

The rejection of claim 1, et al. under 35 USC 103 for obviousness from the newly cited Shober, et al. patent publication and Zhao, et al. patent is traversed on the basis of filing date of the provisional application for the present application. In order for the Shober, et al. patent publication to be citable, it must rely on its own provisional applications filing date (May 17 and 30, 2000), but its ability to do so has not been established by citation of such provisional applications. No copies of the Shober, et al. provisional applications are provided.

Nevertheless, attention is also directed to the RTT limitation of claim 1 that is taken from claim 7 and not found in the art.

Reconsideration and allowance are, therefore, requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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